

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 1999 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

PROJECT NUMBER: 5

- I. Project Title: **Wyoming Program Management**
- II. Principal Investigator: John W. Shields, Interstate Streams Engineer  
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- III. Project Summary: Wyoming's Program Management objectives and accomplishments during this reporting year included: 1) providing staff assistance and support to the Implementation, Management and Biology Committees and to the USFWS in implementing the Recovery Program; 2) participating on technical committees and subcommittees; 3) coordinating with other Program participants to accomplish Program objectives and tasks and to secure Wyoming Legislative, Congressional and Administration support for Program appropriations and support for the federal authorization and funding legislation; and 4) providing public information and developing understanding and support for the Recovery Implementation Program on the part of Wyoming officials, citizens and water users.
- IV. Study Schedule: Wyoming will continue to annually request credit for our participation in the Recovery Program, hence this project will continue throughout the term of the Recovery Program's Cooperative Agreement. Fiscal Year 1999 was the sixth year that Wyoming received in-kind services credit for our program management activities.
- V. Relationship to RIPRAP: Wyoming's Program Management activities address RIPRAP Item VII ("provide program planning and support [program management]") and its components under the "General Recovery Program Support Action Plan."
- VI. Accomplishment of FY 1999 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: During the course of Fiscal Year 1999, John Shields participated in activities of and carrying out the functions of the Management Committee and performing duties associated with being the Committee's chairperson, and participating as a member of the Water Acquisition Committee and Information and Education Committee. Paul Dey, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, ably represented Wyoming on the Biology Committee. The following was accomplished:
  - 1) Coordinated the State of Wyoming's participation in and positions on Recovery Program activities. Advised Wyoming's Implementation Committee member, Wyoming's Governor, the Wyoming Congressional Delegation and their staff, the public and affected state agencies about the Program.
  - 2) Represented the State of Wyoming at Biology Committee, technical committee, subcommittee and ad-hoc group meetings.

- 3) Reviewed, edited and commented on proposals, scopes-of-work, annual reports, project reports, planning documents and administrative records prepared by Recovery Program participants as appropriate and necessary.
- 4) Participated in the development of the annual Recovery Program budget and work plan which was approved by the Implementation Committee.
- 5) Participated in updating the Recovery Implementation Program Recovery Action Plan (RIPRAP).
- 6) Communicated with federal agency personnel and assisted in preparing documents involved in transferring funds for Recovery Program-sanctioned work and generally assisted in carrying out Program activities and initiatives.
- 7) Responded to requests for information concerning the Recovery Program by the Wyoming Congressional delegation, the public, other state agencies and other Program participants. Made a 30 minute presentation at a May 1999 Continuing Legal Education Inc. "Law of the Colorado River" Symposium in Tucson, AZ. Made a presentation to the Lower Green River/Flaming Gorge Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Rock Springs, WY. Made presentations on an ongoing basis to the Colorado River Basin Coordinating Council and its successor organization, the Green River Basin Advisory Group. Made presentations to the Water Development Commission, Select Water Committee and the Wyoming State Senate and Wyoming State House Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Committees in connection with obtaining the balance (second one-half) of Wyoming's upfront cost-share for the capital construction portion of the Recovery Implementation Program.
- 8) Assisted in making arrangements for and participated in the annual briefing of the affected States' Congressional delegations, Congressional authorization and appropriations committee staff, Federal agency officials and staff in Washington, D.C. to develop support for Recovery Program funding line-items included in the President's budget. Assisted with the circulation of the annual Congressional delegation joint letter to the appropriation subcommittee chairmen expressing our Congressional delegations' support for Recovery Program funding. Assisted in follow-up contacts thanking those we met with for their interest and support and providing additional information requested during those meetings. Prepared the summary report of the Washington briefing trip.
- 9) Participated in meetings and activities associated with putting the federal authorization and funding support legislation into final form, requesting hearings on the bill before Congressional committees, preparation and submittal of testimony on behalf of the Governor of Wyoming, involved state agencies and the state-wide water users association. Made repeated contacts with staff of the Wyoming Congressional delegation to gain their support and co-sponsorship of the legislation.

Shortcomings: During the past reporting year, it was not possible to attend each meeting of the Information and Education and the Water Acquisition Committees due to other

conflicting work responsibilities and the scheduling of the committee meetings to accommodate the schedules of the greatest number of participants. In addition, while every reasonable effort including those of the Governor of Wyoming was demonstratively made, Wyoming was unsuccessful in obtaining either the signatures of our two U.S. Senators on the joint Delegation funding support letters or their co-sponsorship and support for the federal authorization and funding support legislation during or subsequent to the annual trip to Washington, D.C.

VII. Recommendations: The following recommendations and comments are provided after reflection on our Program participation during Fiscal Year 1999:

1. Wyoming's Recovery Program committee representatives are pleased to note the increasing use of the Program Participants' World Wide Web Page for sharing Program information and documents. Use of the Program list-server has continued to increase and several additional list-servers were developed and used in conjunction with the 15-Mile Reach Biological Opinion Working Group and the Yampa River Programmatic Biological Opinion Discussion Group (YRPBO Discussion Group E-Mail List-server).
2. Wyoming also is very pleased that a Program Tracking System has recently been developed. We urge the Recovery Program staff to incorporate the system into routine, every-day use and to encourage Program participants to use it to assess Program performance.
3. Greater specificity (both in project and task definition and in cost estimation) is needed in the RIPRAP, and improved mechanisms to prioritize the funding and conduct of activities in the RIPRAP continues to be needed. Wyoming's representatives believe that competition for available funding and the need for prioritization and appropriate sequencing of activities will continue to intensify over time.

VIII. Project Status: Wyoming's Program Management is considered to be both ongoing and on-track. Efforts associated with the funding legislation and the efforts to secure appropriations through the Congressional budget process require much time and effort. The amount of time involved with carrying out Biology Committee tasks and functions has continued to increase over time.

IX.	FY 1999 Budget:	A.	Funds Provided:	\$12,000
		B.	Funds Expended:	\$12,000
		C.	Difference:	\$0
		D.	Percent of the FY1999 Work Completed and Projected Costs to Complete:	Not applicable
		E.	Program funds spent for publication charges:	None

X. Status of Data Submission: Not applicable.

XI. Signed: /s/ John W. Shields, Management Comm. Member      Dated: November 19, 1999